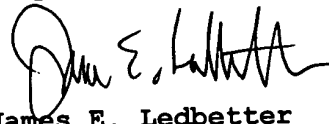


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment eliminates the multiple dependent claim status of claim 14 and amends claims 18 and 19 to make clear that these claims are not multiple dependent claims.

Early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Ledbetter  
Registration No. 28,732

Date: May 20, 2004

JEL/spp

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. L8612.04121

STEVENS, DAVIS, MILLER & MOSHER, L.L.P.  
1615 L Street, N.W., Suite 850  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Telephone: (202) 785-0100  
Facsimile: (202) 408-5200